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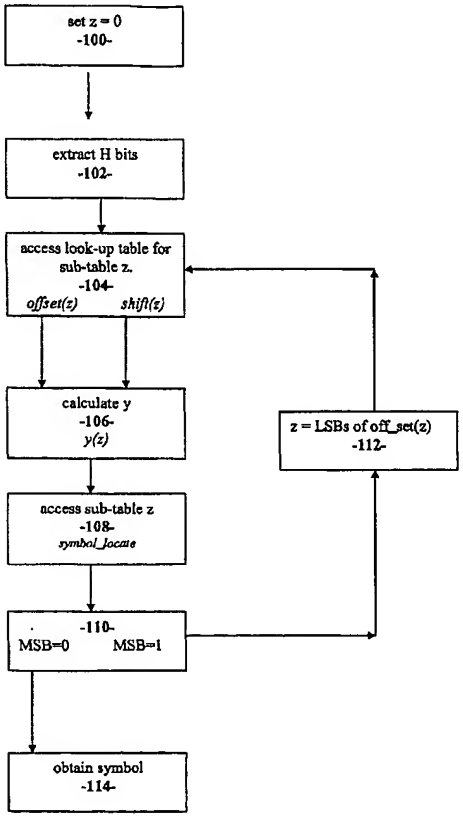
(54) Title: HUFFMAN CODING AND DECODING



(57) Abstract: A method of decoding a bitstream encoded according to a Huffman coding tree of height H comprising: extracting a first codeword of H bits from the bitstream; modifying the codeword by shifting it by a first shift value; using this modified codeword to identify using at least a first data structure either a symbol or a second data structure having an associated second offset value and an associated second shift value; and if a second data structure is identified using the first data structure: modifying the codeword by subtracting the second offset value and shifting the result by the second shift value; and using this modified codeword to identify using the second data structure either a symbol or a third data structure having an associated third offset value and an associated third shift value.

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